

The background of the slide is a collage of two images. The top-left portion shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom-left portion shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Several student desks and chairs are arranged in the room.

Superintendents Advisory Council

February 25, 2026



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

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Certification Structure Workgroup

Todd Davis, Division Director
Division of Education Preparation and Certification
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Certification Structure Workgroup

Charge: Review and discuss state and national data, seek feedback from Kentucky school districts and Educator Preparation Providers to determine if the current grade band structure meets the needs of Kentucky school districts.

Stakeholder Groups Represented

- Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)
- Kentucky School Counselor Association (KSCA)
- Educator Preparation Providers
- Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS)
- Kentucky Education Association (KEA)
- Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA)
- Kentucky Association of School Human Resource Managers (KASHRM)
- Legislators
- KDE Staff
- Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)
- Principals Advisory Council (PrAC)
- Teachers Advisory Council (TAC)
- Education Cooperatives

Certification Grade Bands Recommendation

Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

- Retain Preschool-Kindergarten, consider optional endorsement for Grades 1-3

Elementary

- Grades K-6

Middle Grades

- Grades 4-9

Secondary

- Grades 7-12



Special Education

- Strong caution against combining or broadly dual-certifying LBD and MSD.
- Recognition that MSD and LBD require distinct skills and preparation.
- Concerns about the difference in needs for LBD vs. MSD. (Standards, IDEA, etc.)

Mathematics

- Current certification bands create scheduling barriers.
- Recognition that content is sequential and does not change by grade band.
- Strong support for expanding 5-9 certificate permissions for Algebra I and Geometry.



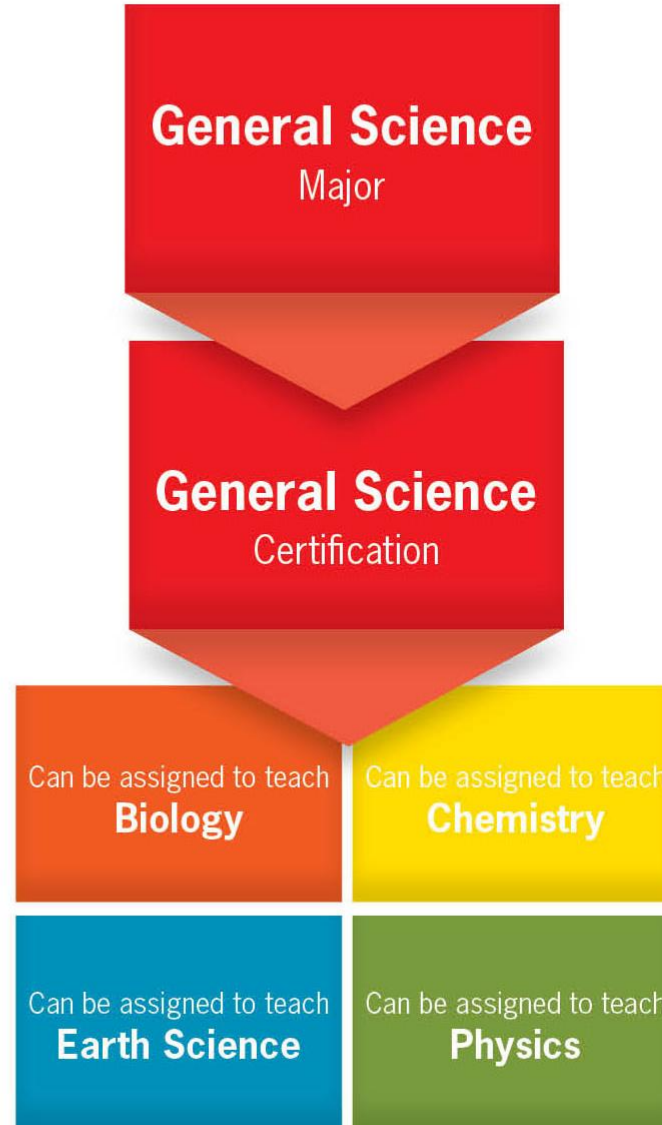
Tennessee

(States with only single-subject certification)



Colorado

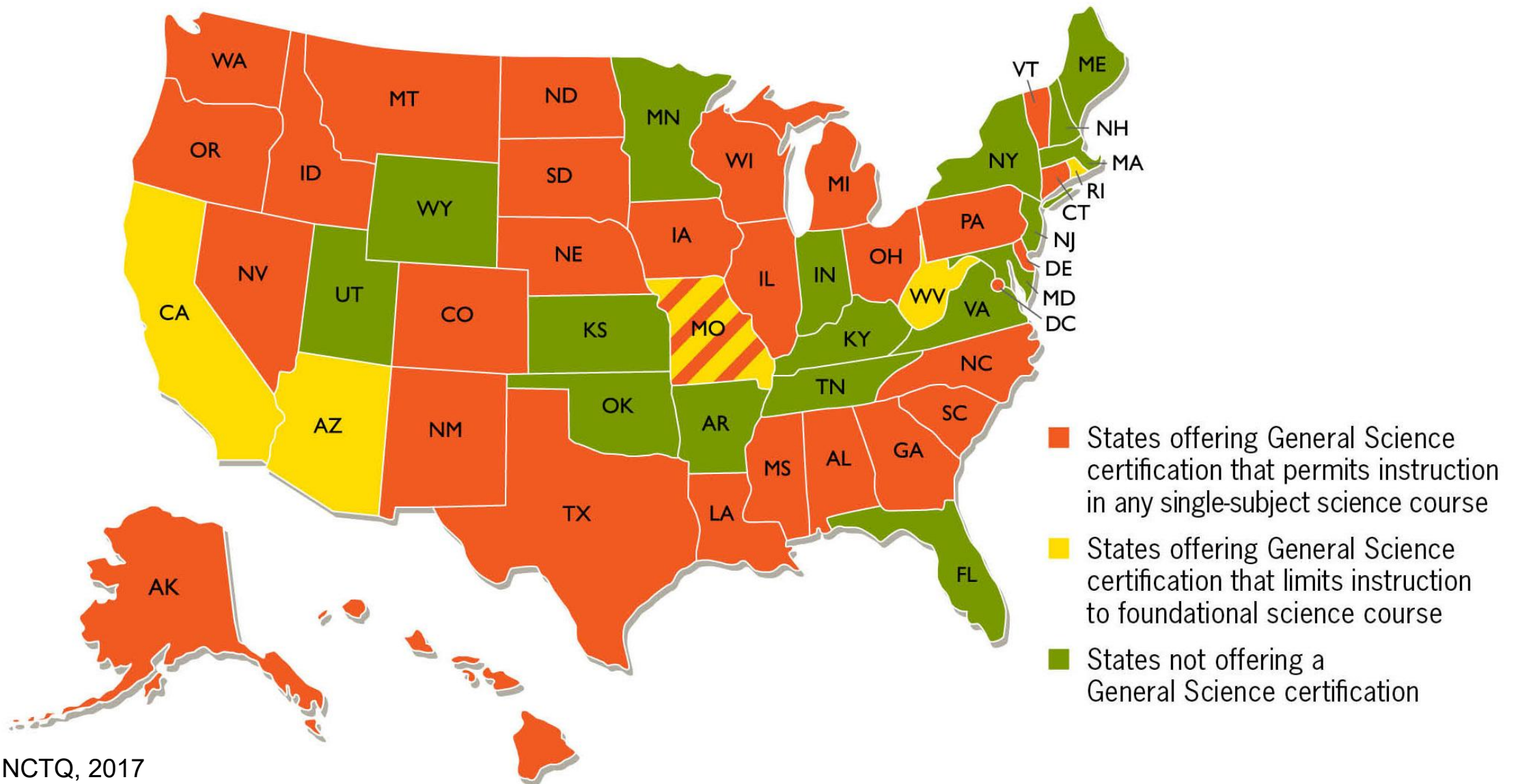
(States with only multiple-subject certification)



- 1) **Sciences**
- 2) **Special Education**
- 3) **Math**

Source: NCTQ, 2017

General Science Certification



Source: NCTQ, 2017

Focus Groups & Feedback

Content Teachers

Sciences, Special Education, Math

Building Administrators and Staff

Principals, Assistant Principals, School Counselors

District Administrators and Personnel

Superintendents, Human Resource Directors, Directors

Higher Education

Education Preparation Providers, Colleges of Content Majors

State Level Stakeholders

KDE Content Consultants, Council of Postsecondary Education (CPE)

Considerations

Preparation

Content Education Majors, Dual Majors, Minors

Certification

Comprehensive vs. Specialized

Permissions

Courses vs. Grade Bands - (Algebra I, Geometry) (5-9, 8-12)

Future Impact

Consequences - Teacher performance, student performance, culture

Science Certification: Common Themes

- Strong support for a General Science certification for foundational coursework.
- Viewed as a way to expand applicant pools, improve scheduling, and reduce reliance on alt. routes & substitutes.
- Broad agreement that specialization should remain for advanced coursework.



Science Certification: Quality

- Flexibility must be paired with clear guardrails.
- Advanced courses (AP, dual credit, upper-level chemistry/physics) may require additional credentials.
- Mention of district accountability for documenting teacher readiness emphasized (current teachers adding credentials).



Science Preparation and Coursework

In addition to a general science major:

- Questioning the necessity of full disciplinary majors for foundational high school science (education or teaching content major).
- Preference for general science preparation with concentrations.
- Considerations of recognizing minors for certification.
- Strong emphasis on pedagogy, classroom management, and support.



Discussion

What is the best approach for:



Expanding science certifications?



Science teacher preparation?



Transition to address need?

credentials for current teachers
permissions for current teachers



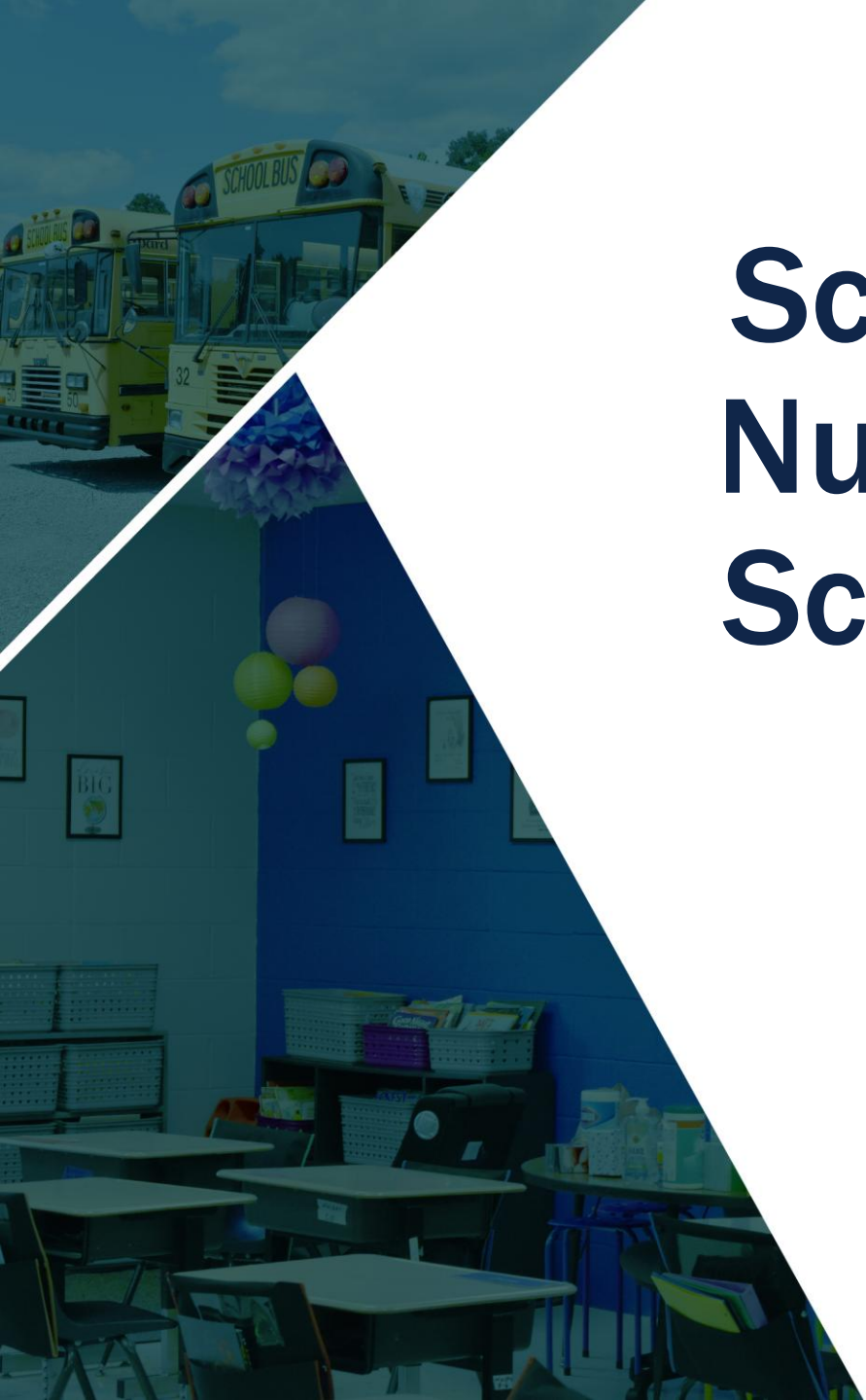
Contact Information

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School and Community Nutrition: Unanticipated School Building Closure

Lauren Moore, Director

Katie Embree, School Meal Programs Manager

Cathy Gallagher, Summer Food Service Program Manager

Division of School and Community Nutrition

Office of Finance and Operations



Kentucky Department of
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Unanticipated School Building Closure

- Refers to a situation where a school closes unexpectedly and congregate meal service is limited or negatively impacted.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has given the state authority to approve non-congregate meals during an unanticipated closure.
- KDE's Division of School and Community Nutrition (SCN) approval must be given in advance of meal service.
 - Up to 10 days may be approved by SCN. If more than 10 days (for each unique situation), the USDA must approve.
- The appropriate program that may be used depends on whether the school is operating under Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) or is fully closed (no instruction). Each scenario requires a different child nutrition program to be implemented if meals are to be provided and federal reimbursement claimed.
- Food service directors must request approval based upon the closure type for each unanticipated closure situation.

Program Feeding Options

Type of Building Closure	Required Child Nutrition Program	Eligible Feeding Population	Rate
Non-Traditional Instruction	National School Lunch Program (NSLP)	Enrolled Students	NSLP/SBP Rates
Closure/No Instruction	Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)/Seamless Summer Option (SSO)	All children age 18 and younger (including weekends)	SFSP Rate or SSO (NSLP/SBP Rates)

Resources

- Available on the KDE website.
 - Federal Programs → School and Community Nutrition → SCN Guidance on Unanticipated School Building Closure
 - [SCN Guidance on Unanticipated School Building Closures.pdf](#)
- Webinar opportunities (recording available)
- Information shared through the SCN Weekly Update and in the Commissioner's Weekly Message.

Questions

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College Admissions Exam – Junior State SAT Administration

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SAT State Administration – Training Recap

Test Administration Trainings

- The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and College Board offered eight trainings at the educational cooperatives in Nov. 2025.
- A total of 487 educators attended from across the state.

Office Hours

- To date, KDE and College Board have held three Office Hours,
 - October - School Setup
 - December - Requesting accommodations and EL supports
 - January - Accessing the State Data Management System and Test Day Toolkit.
- Over 225 educators participated.

Accommodations Webinar

- The accommodations training webinar on Nov. 12 hosted by College Board had 480 in attendance.

February DAC Training and Question & Answer Sessions

- A recorded training was released on Scores and Reporting.
- College Board staff are available at the Q&A Sessions.

SAT State Administration – Systems Open Now

- State Data Management System (SDMS) is open.
 - Testing staff are currently verifying student rosters and ensuring students with special needs have the appropriate accommodations for the SAT.
- Test Day Toolkit (TDTK) is open as well.
 - This system allows coordinators to set up their testing staff and test sessions.
 - Staff can also print access tickets from TDTK for students to be able to utilize the seven practice tests that are available to them.
 - Those tickets will also allow students to complete the readiness check 1-2 weeks prior to testing to ensure that their device is ready.

SAT State Administration – SAT Practice Tools and Resources

- College Board offers many free, engaging [SAT practice resources](#) to help students prepare.
 - Digital Practice Tests Question Banks
 - Questions of the Day
 - Official SAT Prep on Khan Academy
- Just released! College Board is partnering with [Schoolhouse.world](#) to launch Official SAT Tutoring – a new, free peer-to-peer tutoring option.

SAT State Administration – Upcoming

- OAA and College Board will host Office Hours in February, March and April that will discuss timely topics for the state administration, as well as provide time for testing staff to ask questions.
- OAA and College Board will also host a webinar to discuss SAT scores and information reporting to students and educators.
- In short, Kentucky is ready for a successful SAT administration.

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Expanding Preschool Access Discussion

Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations
Government Relations
Office of the Commissioner



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Next Meeting

May 6, 2026